

Weekly Police Beat for the week ending April 7, 2017

New Video Camera to Enforce ‘Do Not Enter’ Signs on Grafton at Wisconsin

Effective today (Friday, April 07, 2017), a video camera will begin capturing video footage of vehicles that ignore the two ‘Do Not Enter’ signs and illegally exit the Village from Grafton Street onto Wisconsin Avenue.

For many months now, the Village Police Department has received complaints from residents of cars violating the signs and nearly causing head-on collisions with vehicles legally entering the Village at Grafton Street. Village police officers have spent considerable time watching that intersection and writing tickets, but it is an expensive and inefficient way to resolve this safety problem. The Village Police Department sought a technological solution that would more effectively reduce the number of violations.

In partnership with Conduent, the Village’s speed camera contractor, the Police Department identified a video camera that will ignore cars that lawfully enter the Village, but will record video footage and take still photos of vehicles that violate the signs. To warn motorists of the presence of the camera, large ‘Photo Enforced’ signs have been placed immediately below each ‘Do Not Enter’ sign.

Initially, warning letters will be mailed to the registered owners of vehicles that ignore the ‘Do Not Enter’ signs. Each violating vehicle will be entered into the Police Department’s records database. Repeat offenders will qualify for special attention from the police to include the possibility of a face-to-face citation issued to drivers identified as the violators.

This camera will not generate any revenue for Chevy Chase Village. The cost of the project will be borne by the Police Department’s operating budget. The system’s performance and the project’s results will be evaluated in the coming months.

The Village Police Department is grateful for the cooperation of the residents of Grafton Street and the Board of Managers for their support of this important traffic safety project.